Fine on Reliance Infocomm by TDSAT

2466. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has fined a sum of Rs. 150 crores on Reliance Infocomm for breaching license conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TDSAT in its judgment dated 4th March, 2005 dismissed the petition No. 3 of 2005 filed by M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. (RIL) against the orders of Department of Telecommunications regarding imposition of penalty of Rs.150 crores. The details of the case are as follows:

(i) A complaint was received from VSNL in respect of incorrect Calling Line Identity (CLI) for international calls on 2nd June, 2004. Meanwhile similar complaints were received from other sources also.

(ii) After detailed investigation it was concluded that RIL has tampered with CLI and had avoided the payment of Access Deficit Charges, thereby had violated the terms and conditions of various Licence Agreements.

(iii) Government after following the due process as per provisions of the Licence Agreements levied a penalty of Rs.150 crores on M/s RIL (Rs.50 crores each against the Unified Access Services Licences of Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata service areas).

(iv) M/s RIL appealed in the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT), however, the appeal was dismissed. M/s RIL paid the penalty of Rs.150 crores in March, 2005.

(v) M/s RIL further filed a Civil Appeal in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the judgement of the TDSAT and the matter is subjudice.

Effects of currency value on IT industry

†2467. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that information technology industry has also been affected due to increase in the value of Indian currency Rupee as compared to the Dollar;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

†Originat notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of persons have been retrenched in this Industry during first three months of the current year clue to the above mentioned reason; and

(d) if so, the number of persons deprived of their jobs and the percentage of decrease in dividend likely to occur?

THE MINISTER OF S'TATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The profit margins of exporting companies in the IT sector have been affected as a result of the appreciation of the rupee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Special incentives for small software companies

†2468. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 5,000 software companies are operating under Information Technology Industry in the country;

(b) if not, the estimated number thereof during the year 2007;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are 20 such largest companies in the Information Technology Industry whose revenue constitutes upto 70 per cent revenue of the industry;

(d) if so, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether Government are providing special incentives to small companies; and

(f) if so, the names of these companies and whether big industries have been deprived of these incentives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per STPI (Software Technology Parks of India) during the Financial Year 2007 more than 7000 STP units are operating.

(c) and (d) As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies) top 20 IT companies contribute about 60-65% of the IT exports.

(e) and (f) As per ESC (Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council) there is no special incentives to small companies of which big industries are deprived of. However, companies having their turnover up to Rs. 15 crores in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.